

ARTICLE APPROVED
ON PAGE 7A

ATLANTA CONSTITUTION
19 FEBRUARY 1981

Haig Proposes Changes In Control Of CIA Missions

By Joseph Albright
Constituent Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Alexander Haig has provoked a bureaucratic row in the new administration by attempting to whittle down the role of the White House staff in overseeing future covert operations by the CIA.

Informed sources said Tuesday that Haig has asked President Reagan to assign the oversight of secret CIA political operations to a new "Senior Interdepartmental Group/Foreign Policy," which would also serve as the president's executive agent for diplomatic, economic and foreign aid initiatives.

The panel would be chaired by Deputy Secretary of State William P. Clark, a former California judge. Other members would be the highest-ranking subcabinet officials of the Defense Department, Justice Department, CIA, and the Office of Management and Budget.

The new national security advisor, Richard V. Allen, would remain a member of the so-called "SIG/FP." But he would lose some turf in that his subordinates would no longer prepare the agendas and attempt to coordinate conflicting agency recommendations before they reach the president. Another potential loser is presidential counselor Ed Meese, who has staked out a broad role as a White House policy coordinator.

So far, Reagan has neither accepted nor rejected the proposal, which was part of a national security reorganization plan delivered to the Oval Office by Haig on Jan. 20. It took the form of a draft "national security decision directive" aimed at dismantling the key committees of the National Security Council which

formed the bureaucratic power base for Zbigniew Brzezinski, the national security adviser in the last administration.

Along with the "SIG/FP," Haig asked Reagan to create a parallel "Senior Interdepartmental Group/Defense Policy" to take over the review of weapons policy issues, which had devolved on the White House during the Nixon, Ford and Carter administrations.

The "SIG/DP" would, under Haig's proposal, serve as the coordinating mechanism to set U.S. government-wide policy on such matters as arms sales to foreign countries and certain arms control negotiations. It would also inherit from the White House NSC staff some new duties in recommending to the president where to concentrate America's spy satellites and other "technical" intelligence

sensors.

Under each "SIG," Haig envisioned a cluster of lower-ranking "Interdepartmental Groups," specializing in a geographical region or a problem which cuts across departmental boundary lines. These "IGs" would staff out a proposal before it reached the "SIG" agenda, with the aim of reaching an interagency agreement at the lowest possible level.

Even if all the agencies agree that a certain covert CIA operation is advisable, the president himself must make a finding that the action is in the national interest, under an intelligence charter passed by Congress last year. Then the administration is obligated to brief the intelligence committees of both houses of Congress before the operation can proceed.